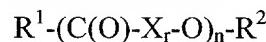


WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A coating composition, comprising:

a latex polymer; and

5 a coalescent having the formula:



wherein:

R¹ is an organic group;

X is a divalent organic group;

10 r is 0 to 1;

n is 1 to 10; and

R² is hydrogen or an organic group;

with the proviso that R¹ includes at least three carbon atoms

when X is not -(CH₂)_s- wherein s is 2 to 8;

15 with the proviso that the coalescent has less than two aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

20 2. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not phase separate from the coating composition upon standing at 49°C for four weeks.

25 3. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds when r is zero.

4. The coating composition of claim 1 wherein the coalescent does not include aliphatic unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds.

30 5. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein r is one.

6. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

5 7. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 10°C.

10 8. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about 4°C to about 5°C.

15 9. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

10. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 20%.

20 11. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 15%.

12. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of no greater than about 750.

25 13. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein the coalescent has a number average molecular weight of less than about 500.

14. The coating composition of claim 1, which is in the form of a paint.

30 15. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 1 to 5.

16. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 1 to 3.

17. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein n is 2 to 3.

18. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R¹ is an organic group having less than 100 carbon atoms.

5 19. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R¹ is an organic group having substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof.

10 20. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R¹ is an organic group having 3 to 24 carbon atoms and substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof; and wherein R² is hydrogen.

15 21. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R¹ has the formula R³-
(CH₂)_m-(O(CH₂)_p)_q- wherein R³ is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50.

22. The coating composition of claim 14, wherein p is 1 to 2.

20 23. The coating composition of claim 14, wherein m + pq is less than about 23.

25 24. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein R² is hydrogen or an organic group having less than 100 carbon atoms.

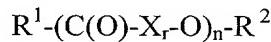
25 25. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is a divalent organic group having 2 to 8 carbon atoms.

30 26. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is a divalent organic group having 3 to 5 carbon atoms.

27. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X is an organic group having substituents selected from the group of oxygen atoms, carbonyl groups, and combinations thereof.

28. The coating composition of claim 1, wherein X has the formula -(CH₂)_s-, wherein s is 2 to 8.

- 5 29. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



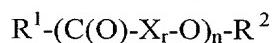
wherein:

- 10 R¹ is an organic group;
X is a divalent organic group;
r is 0 to 1;
n is 1 to 10; and
R² is hydrogen or an organic group;
15 with the proviso that R¹ includes at least three carbon atoms
when X is not -(CH₂)_s- wherein s is 2 to 8;
with the proviso that the coalescent does not include aliphatic
unsaturated carbon-carbon bonds;
with the proviso that r is one when R² is hydrogen;
20 wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about
50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of
polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

- 25 30. The coating composition of claim 29, wherein the coalescent facilitates
the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about
4°C to about 10°C.

- 30 31. The coating composition of claim 29, wherein the coalescent facilitates
the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of about
4°C to about 5°C.

32. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



5 wherein:

R^1 has the formula $R^3-(CH_2)_m-(O(CH_2)_p)_q-$ wherein R^3 is an alkyl or aryl group, m is 0 to 24, p is 1 to 4, and q is 0 to 50;

X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8;

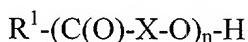
r is 0 to 1;

10 n is 1 to 10; and

R^2 is hydrogen or R^1 ;

15 wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50%, is dispersible in the coating composition, and facilitates the formation of polymer films of the latex polymer at a temperature of less than about 25°C.

33. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



20 wherein:

R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof;

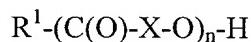
25 X is a divalent hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygen atoms and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

- 30 34. The coating composition of claim 33, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

35. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



5 wherein:

R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing substituents selected from the group of nonperoxidic oxygen atoms, hydroxyl groups, and combinations thereof;

X has the formula $-(CH_2)_s-$, wherein s is 2 to 8; and

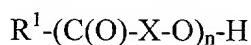
10 n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

- 15 36. The coating composition of claim 35 wherein s is 3 to 5.

37. The coating composition of claim 30, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

- 20 38. A coating composition, comprising:
a latex polymer; and
a coalescent having the formula:



wherein:

25 R^1 is a hydrocarbyl moiety or an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens;

X is an organic group containing nonperoxidic oxygens and carbonyl groups; and

n is 1 to 10;

wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 50% and is dispersible in the coating composition.

39. The coating composition of claim 38, wherein the coalescent has a volatile organic content of less than about 30%.

5 40. The coating composition of claim 1, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

41. The coating composition of claim 29, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

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42. The coating composition of claim 32, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

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43. The coating composition of claim 33, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

44. The coating composition of claim 35, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.

20

45. The coating composition of claim 38, which has been coated onto a substrate and dried.